

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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Clouds Big with Blessing

By DR. P. W. PHILPOTT

(Sermon preached at Moody Memorial Church, Chicago, Sunday morning, January 23, 1949. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

"And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."—Gen. 22:15-18.

The text is the fourteenth verse of the same chapter:

"And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen."

At first God revealed Himself to His servants as Jehovah. On various subsequent occasions He made qualifying additions to that name, such as you have in this verse. Jehovah-Rophe, Jehovah-Tsidkenu, Jehovah-Nissi, Jehovah-Shalom, and other additions of this character were made to that mysterious and marvelous name of Jehovah from time to time in the history of God's ancient people.

In each instance the addition to the name signified a fuller vision of God. The servants of

God to whom the revelation came knew Him after that in a way they had not known Him before. That is particularly true of Abraham here in this twenty-second chapter of Genesis. God meant more to Abraham after the experience than He had meant to him before. That was true in each instance.

Each Trial a Chance for God to Reveal Himself

These fuller visions of God came to His servants at a time when they were meeting some real test, some severe trial. We might call it the trial of their lives. I sometimes think there is such a thing as the trial, a trial that comes to every believer sooner or later, a trial that settles things for him in his own heart and settles things, it would appear, with God. You will remember that when this trial was finished God said, 'Abraham, now I know! Now I know that thou fearest Me, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from Me.' The Lord likes to see our faith.

I was talking one day this week on that subject. The Scripture says of Jesus, "He saw their faith," and that He then said something to the man lying at His feet. Their faith made it possible. I sometimes think that if we saw more of that kind of faith in this day in which we are living, we would see more people at His feet. Oh, it is such a common thing these days to hear

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Dr. P. W. Philpott

Our Profane President

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

President Harry Truman holds the highest office in the United States and is, as the head of the American government, the minister of God. Christians are to "honor the king" and to remember that "the powers that be are ordained of God." In other words, the American government acts as the agency of God in civil matters, and we ought to revere the government and honor it. One should be as careful in criticizing the president as one would be in criticizing his pastor, who is also a minister of God in the spiritual realm. I do not write carelessly or irreverently in this article, but soberly as a minister of God.

In America every citizen is a part of this government which acts as the agent and minister of God. Every citizen in America is responsible to God for his vote and for his influence on the government, this democracy of ours. For me to fail to do my part as a citizen would be a sin for me, just as failure on the part of the president is sin for him. I must give an account to God for my influence. Every preacher stands as a watchman on the wall. Every editor is likewise responsible for building up proper sentiment for good government and morality

and righteousness in public servants. And I believe that means that every preacher should go on record against the obscenity and profanity of President Truman.

A Washington columnist had criticized Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, the President's military aide, for accepting a decoration from the dictator, Peron, of Argentina, friend of Hitler who has trampled on the liberties of the people in Argentina. Vaughan, the presidential military aide, has often gotten in trouble by his rash statements. Before a church women's society in Alexandria,

Virginia, he once criticized Protestant chaplains for not drinking, smoking, etc., saying, "I don't know why a minister can't be a good fellow, but some of them are not, and many of these are chaplains." But the recent criticism of Vaughan was for taking a decoration from the dictator, Peron, of Argentina.

On February 22, at a dinner given by the Reserve Officers' Association at the Army-Navy Country Club in Virginia, President Truman said, "If any s. o. b. thinks he can get me to discharge any of my staff or cabinet by some smart aleck statement over the air he has got another think coming." We apologize to readers for using the initials of the vulgar language here, but the matter is so serious that it ought to be faced honestly.

Newspapers far and wide, and the leading columnist in America, along with fundamental

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By EVANGELIST JOHN LINTON
336 Prairie St., Wheaton, Illinois

(Preached at First Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, Sunday morning, February 6, 1949. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one; for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Therefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."—Heb. 2:1-18.

Some years ago when I entered evangelistic work, God used a simple message one afternoon in the city of Cleveland to lead a Cleveland lady into a new experience of Jesus Christ. This was a southern lady with very gracious personality, a leader of society ladies in that city. God used the message to make salvation simple, and it revolutionized and changed her life. She told me that she was going to pray every day for the blessing of God on that sermon. And as often as God led me afterward to preach the message, I noted that He blessed it.

I could tell you this morning of some very remarkable and glorious conversions that have resulted from the preaching of this message, and I am quite convinced

that it was not so much the preaching by the preacher as the praying of that friend of ours in Cleveland. I am reasonably sure that she is praying today as I preach. May God bless the message.

I want to mention this morning seven striking facts concerning the "so great salvation" which is described in the chapter I have just read. It is so great that God Himself by inspiration does not try to describe it. He is



Evangelist John Linton

content with saying, "so great salvation."

These seven things are in rhyme so that you can remember them and pass them on to others, as the disciples passed on the bread that Jesus Christ miraculously put into their hands, not for their own use only but also for the blessing of others.

Fact Number One Concerning Salvation: God Thought It

The Author of salvation is God. Salvation, dear friends, is not some plan born in the minds of holy men whereby they thought out some way of placating the wrath of an offended God, of doing something to win the favor of God and to atone for their sins. Salvation does not begin on earth, nor with man at all. The Author of salvation is God.

When Adam in the beginning (Continued on Page 2)

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Surely if we think of you constantly, seek to please you in

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By FAIRY SHAPPARD

Personnel Director, Sword of the Lord Publishers

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This 3c bargain—a simple letter—is like that. You can't buy a letter—at least, not that one you want most. And if you did, it would lose its greatest value—the desire on the part of the sender to write it.

Letters! How many there are (Continued on page 6)

Clouds Big With Blessing

(Continued from page 1)

people say, "I don't think we are ever again going to have a great spiritual awakening." What license does anybody have to say such a thing as that? The Holy Spirit is here and, God knows, the need is here. I am praying that yet before the Lord calls me Home I will see another sweeping revival in America and Canada.

Abraham's Promises Are for Us Christians

But back to our message. Abraham, nationally speaking, was the father of the Hebrew peoples. But Abraham had two seeds—one like the stars of Heaven, another as the sands on the seashore, a spiritual seed as well as a national seed. We learn from the New Testament that Abraham is really the father of all men who believe in God. I sometimes think we overlook that. If we do, we miss a lot that we need for our own spiritual courage and strength.

For example, in Galatians 3:6, 7, speaking of this very event from which I have taken my text, Paul says: "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham." Then he goes on to tell us, "The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen [or the Gentiles] through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham [notice what he calls the gospel], saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed." Then he adds, "So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham." And he finishes that third chapter of Galatians by saying, "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

That lets us in on all the Old Testament promises. I am glad of that, for I need nearly all the promises in the Bible for myself. I am glad that I am an heir to all the promises of God. I am a believer, and Abraham is the father of believers. That is our heritage.

Abraham had another distinction. Up in Heaven he was known as the friend of God. About a half dozen times in the Old Testament and two or three times in the New Testament Abraham is referred to as God's friend.

I would like to have that distinction; I would like to be known as the friend of God. Just this morning I was reading a chapter in the Bible that greatly encour-

aged me, the fifteenth chapter of John. In the fourteenth verse Jesus says, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." That gives us all a chance to get in.

God Sends Trials to Reveal Himself

I want you to see something else. Though Abraham had all these distinctions and had this intimate fellowship with God, he was not exempt from trials or testings, such as come to us all. Indeed, this story begins with the words, "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt [try] Abraham" (Gen. 22:1).

Very frequently after meetings like this people come to me and say, "I can't understand God's dealings with me. I have never before lived so near to God as I am living now." They sometimes say, "A year ago [or six months ago] I dedicated my life to God in a new way and I have been striving to do His will. Yet I have never had so much trouble as I am now having. I never before met with so much opposition." They seem to think that if they live near God they will not have any opposition, will not have any trials, will not have any troubles. I think there is a kind of religious philosophy to that effect nowadays. But it is not taken from the Bible. We are not taught that in the Word of God. Jesus said, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you... The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:18, 20). You should not marvel about that. The Devil will see that we get plenty of trials and troubles if we undertake to follow our Lord down the path. Don't forget that, beloved friends! We are not promised exemption from trouble as a consequence or as a reward for consecration or for godly living. It will come to you. Peter expressed it—and he was an old man when he said it—"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's suffering; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad [isn't that a nice word? G-L-A-D!] also with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:12, 13).

One of these days you are going to be glad that you suffered something for Jesus' sake. Paul said, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake" (Phil. 1:29). The Bible never tries to deceive us concerning the great realities of the Christian life. Annie Johnson Flint, the poetess, said:

God hath not promised skies
always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
all our lives thro';
God hath not promised sun
without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace
without pain.

Well, what has He promised? This is it; this is what you should never forget:

But God hath promised
strength for the day,
Rest for the labor, light
for the way,
Grace for the trials, help
from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

Now, if we are going to experience His deliverances, or that unfailing sympathy, or that undying love, we just must have a trial or two. You do not need a deliverer if there is nothing to be delivered from.

You will remember that the Lord said to one of the old prophets: "I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name." I like that! He individualizes us. He does not just put us in with the mass or with the mob. "I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name... When thou

A few days ago I had a letter from a missionary from South America, who is at home on a furlough. He said that his old school has apostatized and made alignments that he could not approve and that he had observed the work of Bob Jones University and that he wished to have a part in helping with the raising of the Student Loan Endowment Fund. It occurred to us that if the Christian friends in America would contribute to Bob Jones University's Student Loan Endowment Fund the money which they are putting now into organizations that are supporting or organizations that are at least encouraging by their silence modernistic teaching, we would not only be able to raise a million dollars but many millions to help Christian young people train for Christian leadership. We tell our students in Bob Jones University that it is never right to do wrong even in order to get a chance to do right. It is not right to give money to any cause that is contrary to the Gospel of the Grace of God. It is one thing to feed a hungry man even when he is a sinner. It is another thing to give money to a cause or individual that directly or indirectly wrecks the faith of people in the Word of God and the power of the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse the human heart from sin.

Bob Jones University does not desire the financial gifts of modernists. There are enough good, old-time orthodox Christians who are in position to contribute enough money to the institution so it can have a million-dollar Student Loan Endowment Fund and thus be enabled to help students financially in time of need, so these students can remain in school.

Remember, we have matriculated this school year almost

three thousand young people who have come from practically all the states and twenty-five foreign countries. Remember that more than one thousand of these are young men preparing to preach the Gospel. These preachers are going out from Bob Jones University as well educated academically as the graduates of any other educational institution in the United States. But they also will go out into the world believing the Bible and preaching the Gospel, and they will have a real passion for souls. Remember, we have more than six hundred young people here this school year who are training for missionary work. These young people, if the Lord tarries, will go to all parts of the world. They will be sound, orthodox, consecrated, and fervently evangelistic missionaries. I ask you orthodox Christians: Do you know any place on earth where you could invest some of God's money and make a better investment than here at Bob Jones University? Remember, we need a Student Loan Endowment Fund of one million dollars so we can from time to time help young people through financial emergencies so they can remain in school. Remember, if you Christian people will give us this Student Loan Endowment Fund, you will not only help us help students, but you will help the institution that helps these students pay its operating overhead. We earnestly pray that the Spirit of God may move upon the hearts of you Christian people who read this appeal so you will make an immediate financial response. The Lord bless you.

BOB JONES,
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Dr. Bob Jones Says:

7 Striking Facts About Salvation

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disobeyed God and fell, God came down that day to walk and talk with Adam; but he was nowhere to be found. And away back there, back of a tree, hiding from the presence of God, was the man who had fallen into sin. God had to take the first step, and the last step, and every step in between before Adam could even hear and know the way of salvation.

Let me ask you this morning: what interest does this world take in its own salvation? Whoever heard of a League of Nations or a United Nations Organization to discover God? Anyone at all with any sense in his head can see evidence in this universe that there was One who made it, an intelligent Being who has love in His heart and in His mind for the creatures of His making, because He has anticipated and supplied every need of man. Would you not think that the leaders of thought in this world of men, knowing that there must be a supreme Being of intelligence who has created mankind—would you not think that they would desire to know Him, that they

would gather in solemn conclave and say, "There must be a God, there must be a purpose in human life, and for this world; let us see if we cannot find out by some means if God has revealed Himself to us and what He wants men and women to do in order to be their best for themselves and Him"? Wouldn't you think they would do that? Have they ever done it? They never have. And in the present age they never will. Why? Because, dear people, men are not interested in their salvation. If God did not take the first and last—and every step between—Himself and fallen man, nobody would ever be saved. Concerning salvation, God thought it!

Fact Number Two Concerning Salvation: Jesus Bought It

This salvation which God thought toward fallen man and desired to bring to him was not a kindly gesture on the part of God's hand in his direction, as you or I might toss a coin to a beggar and pass on, none the poorer. This salvation which God thought, Jesus bought—bought with the price of His out-

passed through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour... (Isa. 43:1-3).

He is not only our Saviour from Hell. He is also sometimes our Saviour from ourselves, sometimes our Saviour from despair. Oh, friend, we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers and wicked spirits in high places. There is not a ghost of a chance for any of us to have victory unless we abide in Him and walk with Him. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day" (Eph. 6:13).

When I became a Christian we used to sing a song, one of the

verses of which went something like this:

If all were easy and if all were bright
Where would the cross be,
and where would be the fight?
But in the hardness God gives to you
Chances of 'proving' that you are true.

I have a revised version of my own for the last lines:

But in the hardness God gives to you
Chances of proving what He can do.

He sometimes lets us go into the fire to give us the experience of deliverance. He lets us meet with opposition to show us how much greater He is than all those who can be against us. What a

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poured life, the blood of the cross, I sometimes ask men with whom I am dealing, "Why do you think it was necessary for God to take His Son and have Him nailed to a dreadful cross before He was willing to say to men, 'Son, thy sins be forgiven thee'? [After all, dear friends, sin is against God. We may wrong our fellow-man but we sin against God.] If sin is against God and if God has power to forgive sin [and He has, and He only], then why doesn't the Bible say that if any man will simply acknowledge before God that he has sinned, that God by His ipse dixit, by the word of His mouth, by a wave of the hand, will forgive the sin and say, 'It is all forgiven'? Why doesn't the Bible say that? Why does the cross have to be dragged into this business of forgiveness of sins?"

If a man says, "Really, I don't understand, Mr. Preacher, why God should bring in the cross with its blood and its suffering and its shame," then I say to that man, "You do not know who God is, and you do not know what sin is; although God is a loving God who desires to lift fallen man, God is also a holy God who must deal with sin, who must reveal His righteous anger against sin and display His holiness in dealing with it." So God not only thought salvation but He has purchased salvation through the blood of His own dear Son.

And let me ask any man or woman here this morning what I asked the children in Bible School today: do you know that God in Christ died in a human body willingly for your sins, and have you never thanked Him for that unutterable sacrifice? What do you think of yourself, man or woman? You know that God Almighty, in a truly human body that could feel pain as we feel it and feel anguish that no mortal man, no finite being, could ever know, willingly suffered in soul and body for you, and yet you have never said, "My God, I thank You!" Jesus bought it. Have you ever thanked Him?

Fact Number Three Concerning Salvation: the Holy Spirit Wrought It

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. He is as much a Person as God the Father or Jesus the Son. Many Christians think of the Holy Spirit as an influence or a principle or a thing or a power and refer repeatedly to this blessed Person as it. But the Bible does not call the Spirit of God it. It speaks of the Holy Spirit as He. He loves us, He prays for us, He keeps us. And it was by the Holy Spirit that our salvation was made possible.

First of all, it was by the Spirit
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7 Striking Facts About Salvation

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that salvation was wrought in Christ.

QUESTION: By whose supernatural power was Jesus born of a virgin?

ANSWER: By the power of the Holy Spirit. "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

QUESTION: By whose power was the Lord Jesus Christ energized for His mighty ministry of miracle and preaching?

ANSWER: By the power of the Holy Spirit. "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

QUESTION: By whose power was the Lord Jesus Christ strengthened and energized so that He never faltered once on His way to Calvary until He cried out in triumph, "It is finished!"

ANSWER: The power of the Holy Ghost. "... who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God" (Heb. 9:14).

QUESTION: When the dead body of Jesus lay in the grave three days and nights in an oriental climate, by whose power was that dead body kept from corruption and then quickened into life?

ANSWER: By the power of the Holy Spirit. He was "put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (I Peter 3:18). Thus we see that salvation was wrought in the Saviour by the Spirit.

And salvation is wrought in the sinner by the same Spirit.

QUESTION: Who is the One whom God uses to convict the sinner of his guilt, to open his eyes to see his need, to open his eyes, also, to see the willingness and ability of Christ to meet his need?

ANSWER: The Holy Spirit. "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). "He will take the things of Christ and reveal them unto you."

QUESTION: When the convicted sinner comes to the Saviour, the Christ of the cross, and thanks Him for His death on the cross and asks the Son of God to come into his heart and make him a new creature, by whose supernatural power is that believing sinner regenerated and born into the kingdom of God?

ANSWER: We are born of the Spirit.

QUESTION: When a man, woman, boy or girl accepts the Christ of the cross and puts himself into God's hands and starts along the pilgrim way to Heaven, who surrounds him with His might and guarantees a safe journey?

ANSWER: The Holy Spirit. "... who are kept by the power of God through faith, unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Peter 1:5). So, concerning salvation—God thought it; Jesus bought it; the Holy Spirit wrought it.

Fact Number Four Concerning Salvation: the Bible Taught It

There are two views concerning this Book called the Holy Bible. One is that it is a human production, a record of the reaching out of men in their thinking after a knowledge of God. The other estimate is that it is not a human production but the divine revelation and that it is the unfolding of the mind and will and purpose of God concerning man, given to men specially chosen of God and so guided and inspired by God that what they wrote was God's Word. We here in this church accept that second appraisal as correct.

If, therefore, the Bible is God's Word as we believe, and since there are two parts of it, the Old Testament and the New Testament, and because the Old is preparatory for the New, we might reasonably expect in the

Old Testament some preintimation of the events that are set forth in the New. That, dear friends, is exactly what we find in this Bible which teaches salvation. Upon the stage of Old Testament history God saw that events were enacted in the life and the history of men and women that were preintimations of the redemptive work of the Son of God. And there is not one great fact that clusters around the redemptive work of Jesus Christ that is not set forth in type and symbol in the Old Testament. The Bible taught salvation in type and symbol back yonder, and in the New Testament in direct statement.

God thought it, Jesus bought it, the Holy Spirit wrought it, the Bible taught it.

Fact Number Five Concerning Salvation: the Devil Fought It

The name given to the Devil in the Bible is Satan. The word means adversary. Satan is the great adversary of God and of man.

He fought salvation from the very first moment when it was spoken to man by the lips of God. Back yonder in the Garden of Eden he heard the promise of the coming of the world's Redeemer. He was there in the serpent and God said, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15). Satan understood right from the beginning that there would be born of woman a Man who was destined by God to crush his head. From that moment he concentrated his efforts on keeping God from coming down in the form of man to save men. That is, the Devil fought salvation by trying to hinder the incarnation of God and thus keep God from coming down to this earth to save men. I see in the Old Testament at least five definite and different attempts of Satan to break the promise of the coming Christ, to nullify the Word of God, and hinder the coming of the world's Saviour.

First of all, there was the murder of righteous Abel by Satan-inspired Cain. This was the first desperate attempt of the Devil to slay the righteous seed who would be in the line of the coming Christ. Abel fell, writhing in his own blood, a victim of his brother's hands. Who inspired Cain? "Cain... was that wicked one" (I John 3:12), and the purpose of Satan was to break the Word of God and to hinder the incarnation of God, to prevent it if he could. The purpose failed.

Genesis 4:25 says that as soon as Abel breathed his last God gave Eve another son. His name was called Seth which means substitute. "For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew." And the line of Jesus Christ runs from Adam through Abel's substitute, Seth, unto Bethlehem.

The second attempt of Satan to hinder the coming of God to earth in the form of a redeeming man was the introduction of such moral corruption into this world in the days of Noah as to compel God to destroy the whole human race from the face of the earth and so keep Christ from being born of a woman. And Satan so succeeded that God Almighty was compelled to wipe out and to exterminate almost the whole human race. But the Devil's purpose was defeated on the rock of Noah's godly life. Noah was spared, and his family alone of all mankind. And the line of Christ runs from Adam, through Seth, and through Noah.

The third attempt was the attempted murder of King David by Satan-inspired Saul. God had said to David that he would be the progenitor of the world's Saviour and that the Christ would be the son of David. The Devil knew that. One day David was sitting there playing his instrument be-

fore the Devil-inspired King Saul, and when Saul thought David was not aware, he reached behind him stealthily for a javelin and hurled it, intending to pin David to the wall. But David avoided out of his presence, guided by God; and the third attempt of Satan to break the promise of the incarnation failed.

The fourth attempt was the attempt of Queen Athaliah, the "Bloody Mary" of the Old Testament, to exterminate the whole royal seed of the house of Judah. God had said that Christ would be the Lion of the tribe of Judah. This Devil-inspired woman rose up one night and there was a wholesale massacre of every one of the male members of the royal family of the house of Judah. How many of the sons perished, we do not know—young and old; babes, boys, young men, and older men. But out of that massacre and pile of bodies a little babe was overlooked and spared and was carried by his aunt to a secret chamber, taken literally from among the dead, and kept until he was seven years of age. And there in the temple court of Jerusalem he was crowned king of Israel. On the slender thread of a little baby's life hung the promise of the world's Redeemer. It was a slender thread, but God was holding it. Thus the line of the promised Saviour of the world comes from Adam, through Seth, through Noah, through David, and through little baby Joash.

The last attempt of Satan to keep God from coming down to earth to save men was the plan for the extermination of the whole Jewish race in the days of Queen Esther and at the hands of wicked Haman.

You remember that the Medo-Persian kingdom ruled the whole world, 127 provinces, comprising all of mankind. The decree of a Medo-Persian king could never be rescinded. The Devil knew his business. He arranged that the king would sign a decree that on a given date, through the whole world men would rise up and exterminate in a world-wide program every Jew—man, woman and child. It could have been done, but standeth God within the shadows, keeping watch above His own. Haman, my friends, received poetic justice from God. With his own hands he built a gallows of wood on which he was going to hang his hated enemy, Mordecai. Instead of his hanging his enemy, God had him hung on the scaffold of wood which his own hands had built, just as the Devil who inspired him, planned the wooden scaffold on Mount Calvary for the destruction of his hated enemy, Jesus Christ. But as Jesus walked to that cross He said, "Now shall the prince of this world be cast out" (John 12:31). The cross, my friends, spells Satan's ultimate doom. As David killed Goliath with his own sword, so Christ through death destroys him that hath the power of death, that is, the Devil. The Devil failed to keep God from man. In due time Jesus was born. He lived, He died, He was buried. He rose, He went to Heaven. He sent the Spirit of God into the world, and the grace of God and the dispensation of the gospel began.

The Devil failed to keep God from coming down to save men, so what does he do now? He now tries to keep men from coming to God to be saved. How does he do it?

First, he tries to keep them from church. He knows that faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. And if the Devil can keep men from the hearing of the gospel, the mortgage that he has on them will in all likelihood never be lifted.

Thank God for radio that penetrates the walls of houses and the ears of sinners. Support it with your prayers and gifts. It is the attempt of the church and of God Himself to overthrow the work of Satan in keeping men from church. But, oh, how many are swallowing the bait and come only occasionally, if ever, to the house of God. Satan, first of all, tries to keep men from hearing the gospel so that their minds are filled up with the things of this world—material things—and God

and the things that matter are crowded out.

But suppose a man has had a decent upbringing. Suppose his parents have taught him that as a decent citizen he ought to go to church, at least once a Sunday, even if it hurts him. Suppose he says, "Why, certainly a man ought to go to church. Where would the country be but for the preachers, and the Sunday School teachers, and the churches? I am going to a church and I am going to listen to a sermon even if it kills me." So he starts out to church. Does the Devil give that fellow up as a bad job and cease his hindering? My friends, the Devil's work is only beginning!

When the Devil sees that a man is determined to go to church, he then concentrates his power and devices on guiding his feet to some church where the gospel is not preached. "What is that, Brother Linton," you say, "churches where the gospel is not preached—are there any such churches?" My friends, the woods are full of them. I do not say that to be smart. I say with a sob in my throat, with sorrow in my heart that there are more churches in this land where the gospel in its purity is not preached than churches where it is preached. The Devil doesn't care if you take your bed and go and sleep in some of these churches. He knows you would never be saved there. From the first Sunday in the year to the last, there is never an altar call given to the unsaved. It is never hinted to men that they need a Saviour. They are all the sons of God, it is assumed. Hell is never mentioned, Heaven seldom. The term, "born again," is considered a vulgar term in most of these churches. Men and women are content to have their names written on the church roll and not written in the Lamb's book of life. Let me repeat it: you can take your bed and sleep in such a church and never be saved. It is not coming to church that saves a person!

But suppose, in the third place, that a man has not only had a decent upbringing, but has had also a real Bible training from his youth. Suppose his parents have said, "Son, there are churches and churches, there are preachers and preachers. You must distinguish between chaff and wheat, between the true and the false. You must not only go to church; you must go to a real church, to a gospel real church where the Bible is preached, where the simple gospel is presented and the Christ of the cross uplifted."

Suppose the man decides to go to such a church. **QUESTION:** What does the Devil do then? Does the Devil lift up his hands and say, "I guess I am losing this man, I might as well go and work elsewhere?" Brother, he never gives up! He leaves the giving up to us Christians.

When he sees that a man is determined not only to go to church, but also to go to a church where the gospel in its simplicity and power is preached, he camps between that man and his nearest neighbor and concentrates on keeping the man from deciding to accept Jesus Christ. The Devil knows that it is not hearing gospel sermons that saves people. He knows it is accepting the Christ who is preached. The Devil does not care if you live in the church,

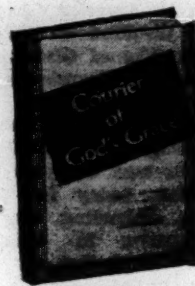
even in a true gospel church, as long as you do not decide to get saved.

But suppose that a man not only goes to church, but goes to a true church; suppose that he not only goes to a true church but also decides to be saved—does the Devil leave him then? No! He then concentrates on keeping him from being saved *then* and *there*. He does not mind his deciding to be a Christian if he does not do it now. He says, Not here and now, not in front of all these visitors, not with this strange preacher, and, anyway, not with a lot of people looking at you. This is sacred; this is personal. This is something you should do in your own secret room. Do it by all means—it is the best thing you ever decided to do. But don't do it here and now."

Beloved, the Devil does not care when you accept Jesus Christ, as long as you do not do it now. Hell has in it millions of people who went there after they had definitely decided they would get

(Continued on page 4)

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Our Profane President

(Continued from page 1)

church leaders, have asked that the president apologize.

David Lawrence, one of the strongest and most moderate of the columnists, greatly respected for many years, in THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS for Saturday, February 26, says:

"Apology Due From Truman"

"President Truman's use of the term 's. o. b.' in a public gathering at which women were in attendance has stirred Washington."

"It would be regrettable, moreover, if the impression created upon the youth of the land is that language hitherto deemed improper had suddenly been given sanction through usage by a President of the United States in a public meeting."

"The only way out for the President, it was suggested on all sides, was a public expression of regret and apology. Such a step never hurts a public man. For it is human to err, and Mr. Truman is human."

THE CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE, one of the influential newspapers in America, had a two-column headline as follows:

"Truman's Use of Obscenity Assailed By Churchmen"

"By Laurence Burd

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

"Washington, Feb. 23—President Truman was denounced by church leaders today for using 'unChristian, degrading, and offensive' language in declaring publicly last night that no 's. o. b.' is going to influence his acts as chief executive."

"Mr. Truman's public use of the abbreviated swear word before a mixed audience of men and women was without known precedent in the history of the White House, according to available records."

"The language brought an immediate protest today in church circles. The Rev. Carl McIntire, president of the International Council of Christian Churches, in a telegram sent from New York City to the White House, called upon Mr. Truman to 'apologize to the American people for an offense against Christian people.'"

"In Washington the Rev. Edwin L. Foot, pastor of the First Wesleyan Methodist Church, called the President's utterance 'an unChristian statement that will create disrespect everywhere for the high office that Mr. Truman

holds.'

"The President spoke deliberately and distinctly in using the term of abuse, observers said. He departed from the club immediately after his speech."

"Reporters and guests present said there was no question that Mr. Truman used the epithet, but a transcript of his remarks released later by the White House substituted 'any one' for it."

"The transcript also changed another portion of the President's language from 'you are too damned old' to 'too darned old.'"

"The reaction to the Truman remark in church circles ranged from a frigid silence to the demand by the Rev. Mr. McIntire that the President apologize. It marked the second time since Mr. Truman assumed his high office that his personal activities have run into church criticism. On Nov. 15, 1945, the Baptist general convention of Texas assailed the President for drinking and playing poker."

"The telegram to the President from the Rev. Mr. McIntire, who is pastor of the Bible Presbyterian church in Collingswood, N. J., as well as president of the Christian churches council, said:

"The language you used last night at the dinner is an offense to Christian people, degrading to our youth, and humiliating before the nations of the world and, I believe, unbecoming of an occupant of the high office of the Presidency of the United States."

"Calls for Apology"

"As the prophet, Nathan, spoke to King David, as Elijah spoke to Ahab, I call upon you to apologize to the American people and to ask God to forgive you. We must have God's honor and blessing upon you as our leader, and upon our nation in these frightful days."

"On Capitol hill, the corridors buzzed in amazement over the President's language, but few legislators chose to comment. An exception was Rep. Johnson (R., Cal.), who attended the dinner. He said he was 'very sorry to hear the President of the United States make a comment like that.'"

In the House of Representatives, Representative Hoffman, of Michigan, publicly said that Mr. Truman has proved himself unfit for the high office he holds by his

use of indecent language in publicly assailing his critics. He said the utterance shows that the President "lacks something which every public official should have—a sense of common decency, a sense of fitness, and propriety."

It is well to remember that the offensive and vulgar language was used in a public address before ladies as well as men, and that the President the next day "told reporters the reaction to his use of the abbreviated swearwords was very satisfactory to him."

President Truman True to Character

President Truman is a church member, a member of a Baptist church. In fact, he is Southern Baptist in background, as is this editor. I do not know whether he has been truly converted, born again. I would like to believe that he has been. When first induced into the presidential office at the death of President Roosevelt, he humbly begged people to pray for him. I think that in broad and general terms he intends to do right and means to make a good president. However, it is only fair to say that many an obscene and profane man is a good friend to his cronies, pays his honest debts and is regarded as a good citizen. Whatever President Truman's sincerity, the facts still remain that his moral standards are lamentably low, that he is unfitted for the high office he holds.

Some people are shocked that he used offensive and profane language in the presence of ladies at a public meeting. Actually, that language is in keeping with his custom.

Even on the day of his inauguration President Truman said he 'didn't give a damn' if everybody in his old artillery company got drunk after the inaugural parade.

In his presidential campaign he repeatedly and publicly said, "I'm going to give 'em hell!"

On November 15, 1945, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, one of the strongest bodies of fundamental Christians in America, passed a resolution condemning the President's drinking and his poker playing and gambling.

TIME magazine for January 3, 1949, page 12, has the following evaluation of Mr. Truman:

"A man who neither expects nor inspires pomp & circumstance, he still likes to sit up late over a poker table, drinks branch water and bourbon, and roars when his military aide, Major General Harry Vaughn, tells an off-color joke. He has learned to duck embarrassing questions, but he is still capable of insisting stubbornly that the spy hearings are 'a red herring' long after the charge has become ridiculous."

That quotation is in the midst of a friendly article, that on the whole, praises Truman, so it would not be fair to count it the statement of an enemy. Here a friendly writer plainly says that Truman likes to sit up late over a poker table, that he drinks bourbon whisky, that he likes off-color jokes. You see, it was not a surprising or unnatural thing for the President to use profanity or obscene language as he did on Washington's birthday night before the army reserve officers and their wives.

President Truman in Politics Follows the Same Worldly Standard

The importance of the sad indications of Mr. Truman's low standard of decency in speech is not only that it will lower standards of decency in speech among people everywhere. That is an important matter, terribly important. President Truman's bad language in public will encourage indecent, vulgar and profane speech everywhere. But far more important than that, in my humble judgment, is the fact that President Truman is the spokesman for profane men and the companion of profane and vulgar men, so that presidential decisions and policies are made on a low moral basis that endangers the welfare of our nation.

One had as well face the matter fairly and honestly. The simple fact is that men who are profane and vulgar in language do not have the same high standards in moral and spiritual matters as

reverent men of modest and clean speech.

So in politics Mr. Truman uses the methods that one would expect from a drinking, gambling, cursing man who "roars when his military aide, Major General Harry Vaughn, tells an off-color joke." In Matthew 15:18 Jesus said: "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man."

Again in Matthew 12:35-37 Jesus said: "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Evil words come from an evil heart, Jesus said. By a man's words he shall be justified or condemned, Jesus said. President Truman and the whole New Deal set-up which he advocates in government fit in with the low moral standards of obscene and profane language and with drinking.

First, consider Mr. Truman's political origins. He was first appointed to a judgeship, and then sent to the Senate by the Pendergast political machine in Kansas City. That he does not deny, and no friend of his denies it. He would not have had a ghost of a chance to reach the Senate under other circumstances. He has consistently held that he owed a debt to the Pendergast machine for putting him where he is, and he has tried to pay that debt. Boss Pendergast was finally sent to prison, with many of his helpers, when a group of honest citizens got in control and the criminal element was routed. But, out of jail, Boss Pendergast died and Truman flew from Washington to attend the funeral of his close friend and benefactor.

TIME magazine, dated February 21, has an article on William Marshall Boyle, Jr., who is newly-appointed executive vice chairman of the Democratic Committee, assigned to "run headquarters, share in policymaking." The article says, "There was much more to it than that: Bill Boyle would parcel out, or pass on, the jobs in the lush fields above civil service and below Cabinet rank (among them: judgeships, U. S. district attorneys, key postmaster-ships). Eventually he would probably take title officially from McGrath." The article is headlined, "The Spoilsman."

Then the article continues, saying, "Ward-level thinking came naturally to Bill Boyle. Like Harry Truman, he was a product of Kansas City's old Pendergast machine. . . . He was a police-department secretary in 1939 when his boss followed old Tom Pendergast to jail."

It is interesting to note that there were two groups in Kansas City. One was run by the Pendergast machine. Another group, of the highest moral leadership, proved that the Pendergast machine was run by criminals, that it wasted public funds, that it stole elections. The Pendergast leaders were put in jail, including old Tom himself. Now from which group does President Truman select his helpers? From the moral reform group or from the corrupt political machine that got power by gangsterism and crooked politics? He has selected his helpers again and again from the Pendergast machine group. Boyle is only one example.

In the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS for February 26 the Wash-

ington columnist, Paul R. Leach, incidentally mentions Boyle. He says, "Boyle is a Washington lawyer and old friend of the President's. He grew up politically in Kansas City, Mo., as a cog in the Pendergast machine. Truman brought him here to be assistant counsel and later secretary of the Senate War Investigating Committee which Truman chaired before he was elected vice president."

But now Boyle is to dispense jobs and patronage for the Democratic Party in Washington. In the same CHICAGO DAILY NEWS for February 26, Marquis Childs of Washington, another nationally-known columnist, raises the question of the inherent danger and temptation to corruption when a man who is practicing law as a private individual, is yet the political boss of the whole Democratic machine, giving out patronage to those who please Democratic leaders and get the most votes. Boyle's background in the Pendergast machine is bad. To have him boss now of the whole Democratic machinery of the nation is dangerous, particularly so since he has a chance to throw influence on members of Congress and other public servants in many, many matters, with his promise of patronage and spoils.

We will not here go into the parole of the gangsters in which the President's office is said to have brought heavy influence for their freedom. We will not go into Truman's other connections with members of the Pendergast machine. But all of us know that he was supported in his recent presidential campaign by the most corrupt city machines everywhere: the remnants of the Kelly-Nash machine in Chicago, the Tammany Hall machine (notorious for decades in New York City), Boss Hague's machine in New Jersey. Informed people know that many of the votes within the territories controlled politically by these machines were influenced by criminal gangsterism and its

(Continued on page 5)

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Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois

7 Striking Facts About Salvation

(Continued from Page 3)

saved and go to Heaven. But they did not do it now.

God thought it. Jesus bought it. The Holy Spirit wrought it. The Bible taught it. The Devil fought it.

Fact Number Six Concerning Salvation: I Sought It

Blessed be the day when I, John Linson, sought this salvation! As a lad of thirteen years, over in Edinburgh, Scotland, smitten with a sense of sin, seeing that I was guilty of the death of Jesus Christ, realizing that it was not those Roman soldiers, after all, who put him to death but that it was my sin that held those dear hands to the tree, it was my sin that had broken His Heart, I asked God that afternoon to forgive the sin I had committed, — the sin of putting Jesus to death—and to save me, and make me a Christian boy. And, bless God, He did it! Concerning salvation I am glad I can say, I sought it.

God thought it. Jesus bought it. The Holy Spirit wrought it. The Bible taught it. The Devil fought it. I sought it.

Fact Number Seven Concerning Salvation: Take Christ and You've Got It!

That is more colloquial than grammatical, but let it go. Take Christ and you've got it!

You get it for nothing. I am glad that is true or there would be multitudes of poor folk in this

world who would have to do without it. But you get it for nothing.

Second, you may surely know you've got it. It is not just a wistful, anxious expectation. It is an accomplished fact. You know that you have passed from death unto life. You know that He is "able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory." You do not boast in your own will power, brother. You boast in His ability to keep you. He has said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5). I know there are problems connected with it, but do not get a headache over the problems; just take the words of the Saviour and believe them.

Jesus came into my heart as a boy, and in spite of a background that was difficult and in spite of little help, here I am a preacher of the gospel. Was it because of my will power? Was it because of my determination? No, it is because of God's keeping power, because of the Holy Spirit in my heart who has pledged to keep us from falling and to present us faultless. You get it for nothing. You will know you've got it. And you can get it now.

God's time is now, this Sunday morning, February 6, 1949. My dear young man, young woman, boy or girl, man or woman, father or mother, now is God's time, there is no other time for— "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

Our Profane President

(Continued from Page 4)

friends. And the Democratic Party, running Mr. Truman, encouraged, did not repudiate that corrupt support.

Let us all take for granted that President Truman honestly believes in the New Deal, that is, he believes that the government should take over more business, run everybody's affairs, provide more government jobs, raise taxes, have a socialistic form of government approaching that advocated by the communists. I say, we may say that President Truman is honest in that belief. Some people are. But he could not have been honest in many of his statements during the campaign. They were the irresponsible statements of a demagogue who did not mean what he said. For example, in the Philadelphia Convention Hall he said that the G.O.P. wants to put all the people in the country "in one big company union and run it for the benefit of the National Association of Manufacturers." It is no wonder that his best followers were horrified when he said, "A vote for Tom Dewey is a vote for fascism." Everywhere his ranting appealed to race prejudice and attempted to buy votes with promises, setting class against class. For example, there are more laborers than managers, so he chose to denounce business managers.

President Truman did not believe that the country "would go to the dogs" if a Republican administration was elected, as he said it would. "He pictured the Republicans as tools of the 'most reactionary elements . . . silent and cunning men,' who would 'skim the cream from our national resources to satisfy their own greed,' who would 'tear the country apart.' They were 'blood-suckers with offices in Wall Street . . . princes of privilege . . . plunderers.'" That was the talk of a demagogue who gets votes by making unprincipled statements that arouse hate, and appeal to the self-interest and fear of ignorant people. That kind of talk goes with profane language, poker playing and drinking.

Before you give your assent to the New Deal as continued under Mr. Truman, remember it was the New Deal that set out to deliberately propagandize against prohibition, laying the blame on bootleggers, and yet promised there would never be another saloon in America. It was the New Deal administration that sent James A. Farley to Texas, my own state, to bring pressure to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment. It was the New Deal Administration that sent federal agents to Texas to hire bootleggers as dispensers of liquor, openly breaking the Dean law. It was under the New Deal administration that the present Supreme Court was largely appointed, the Supreme Court which declared that an atheist must have a chance to air his views on the radio, the Supreme Court that said it was unconstitutional for the churches to have released time Christian education in connection with the public schools though handled by the churches. It was under the New Deal that, during the second World War, good soul-winning preachers could hardly get an opportunity to preach to the soldiers. How different the New Deal administration from that of President Woodrow Wilson, the Bible-believing Presbyterian elder who confessed Christ as Saviour, who was president during World War I.

Socialism, Like Communism, Is Against the Bible and Christianity

Mr. Truman is against communism. So are we all, except for a radical few, enemies of America. Communism means a system of government headed up by Joseph Stalin, controlled by the Communist Party, intending to overthrow the government in America by violence. Of course we are all against communism. No one could get elected presi-

dent without being against communism.

But actually the socialism which Mr. Truman advocates is very similar to communism in its general principles. Karl Marx and Engel, fathers of communism, were socialists. Socialism and communism are alike in that they believe in government taking away the rights of the people, taking control of large enterprises, taking money from the rich and giving it to the poor, supporting people with government funds whether they work or not, etc. Communism and socialism are alike in demanding that the government control rents, set prices on farm products, control wages, control public health, doctors, etc., and public education. Both are alike in opposing the American free enterprise system whereby a man can set himself up in his own business, whether a shoe-shine stand, a hamburger joint, or a factory, and make good. Communism and socialism are alike in that principal leaders of both kinds have regularly been against Christianity and the Bible. Both socialism and communism say, "Religion is the opiate of the people."

There are two essential differences in communism and the socialism which President Truman advocates. Communism is tied up with Joseph Stalin and the Communist Party with headquarters at Moscow. American socialists do not want that. In addition, communism believes in a violent and bloody overthrow of the government, a revolution accomplished by physical violence. Socialism wants the revolution but wants it to come without violence. Both socialists and communists are left instead of right. Leaders of both socialism and communism admit that the Bible is against their philosophy and that Christianity is a hindrance to either socialism or communism. The Bible teaches the right of free enterprise, the private ownership of property, freedom for a man to work or not to work, whether he is a member of a union or not, etc. Roosevelt was no Communist, but communism got its strong foothold in America during Roosevelt's administration. The principles of New Deal socialism and the principles of communism are largely the same.

It is no accident that during the New Deal administration, under the control of the Federal Communications Commission, the trend was for Bible-believing preachers to be put off the air, while modernists were encouraged and, wherever possible, given free time to represent their kind of "Christianity." That trend, by an emphatic public protest, has largely changed, but we may be sure that the socialistic influence of the government encouraged the trend.

It is not surprising that when the U. N. O. meeting took place in San Francisco there was no prayer for divine guidance such as Americans have in their Congress and important public meetings, even the political conventions. Prayer would not have pleased Stalin. But prayer would likewise not have been desired by such principal leaders in the New Deal as Felix Frankfurter, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Madame Perkins, Harry L. Hopkins, Cocoran, Rex Tugwell, and their like.

The profane and vulgar language of President Truman is a symptom of a deep-seated political condition in America. Those in charge of the present administration are for profane language, for drinking, for gambling, and against the high moral standards which former leaders in America upheld.

Christians are going to have to face the fact that Bible Christianity must be opposed to New Deal socialism and the moral standards of New Deal socialism.

Christian Leaders Must Take a Stand on Important Public Moral Issues

Most politicians are against having "preachers in politics." Most politicians, I am sorry to

say, have good reasons to fear preachers when they take a hand in politics. But actually every preacher is a citizen and accountable to God for his action as a citizen. He has the same obligations as any other citizen has. And more than that, the preacher is a prophet of God and must take seriously the moral trends of his day and boldly come out against immorality and public sin. Christianity has lost its influence in America largely because of preachers without the courage and convictions and integrity to stand out plainly against wrong.

Thank God for Rev. Carl McIntire, president of the International Council of Christian Churches, editor of the CHRISTIAN BEACON, who wired President Truman asking him to apologize for his vulgar and degrading talk in public. God bless that true man! So the prophets of God in the Old Testament stood up against sin in high places. So John the Baptist rebuked Herod. So John Huss and Martin Luther and John Wesley and Spurgeon spoke out boldly, each in his day, against public sins.

In the January edition of a contemporary Christian monthly the editor speaks of the election of Mr. Truman, saying, "To some

it was a negative sort of miracle. We could hardly have wished a man who conducted such a flagrant campaign to achieve the highest position of leadership in our nation." Then he says that Christians prayed and a miracle happened and that we must be reconciled to the election of President Truman as the will of God.

I must differ with my beloved and honored friend, the editor. I do not believe we can blame God for having President Truman. I believe we can blame ourselves, particularly our religious leaders who did not take a stand plainly against the poker-playing, whiskey-drinking, profane-talking candidate before he was elected. I believe that no man has a right to talk about God putting Truman in office if that man did not openly speak his mind before the election to influence as many people as possible against the folly of electing this man. And I believe that every godly preacher now should set out to use his in-

fluence against the socialism, against the corrupt politics, against the dirty language, against the immoral practices of the present New Deal.

Some will not like this article. When you write to protest (and I would like very much to hear from all honest people who have convictions on this matter, pro or con) be sure to say whether you favor President Truman's profanity and liquor drinking and poker gambling. The question is not political, but moral, and true Christians dare not be neutral nor defend sin.

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CANADA

Detour to Divorce!



A recent article in **THE ATLANTIC WEEKLY**, "Moonlight and Poison Ivy", says American marriage is coming to be a detour to divorce! The state of affairs is so shocking that numerous secular papers and magazines are running articles on the high rate of divorce. Suggestions are being made on every hand; gradually the nation is coming to realize that something must be done about the startling divorce statistics in this country.

THE BIBLE HAS THE ANSWER!

For the Christian, the question of divorce is settled in the Bible. Here is a book which takes the plain teaching of the Word of God and interprets it in practical terms for everyday living.

THE HOME: Courtship, Marriage and Children

By DR. JOHN R. RICE

This Bible manual of 22 chapters discusses all the preliminary phases of marriage—courtship, preparation for marriage, discipline of children, etc. And it gives the answer to the most vexing problems of home living. It actually has prevented divorce, and has helped to save many homes from years of unhappiness. Even happy homes will find in this book blessed counsel and helpful suggestions; Character building in the home, family worship, prayer, teaching children the Bible, cooperating with church and school and community, making Christ the head of the home. There are 381 pages and on every one of them you will find valuable suggestions and information.

Chapter Titles

1. Marriage and Home.
2. Courtship and the Dangers of Petting.
3. Principles of a Successful and Happy Marriage.
4. Some Things That Should Delay Marriage.
5. Some Should Never Marry.
6. Man, God's Deputy as Head of the Home.
7. Wives Should Be Subject to Husbands.
8. Letter to a Young Husband.
9. Normal Sex Life in Marriage.
10. The Blessing of Children.
11. Birth Control.
12. Correction and Discipline of Children.
13. "Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother."
14. Family Worship in the Home.
15. Prayer in the Home.
16. Teaching Children the Bible.
17. Winning Children to Christ.
18. Character Building in the Home.
19. Cooperating with Church, School and Community.
20. Adultery, the Ruin of Marriage and Morals.
21. Divorce, the Wreck of Marriage.
22. Making Christ the Head of the Home.

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MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE: If you do not find this book to be worth every cent you paid for it, we will cheerfully refund your money! Just return the book, in new condition, and back will come your refund. We are so sure you will enjoy it, find it helpful, live by it, pass it on to your friends, that we know you will not want to give it back for any amount of money!

381 pages in deluxe cloth binding. See titles of the 22 detailed chapters above. A beautiful book, with family record, marriage license, picture of author's wife and baby. During letter month only **\$2.00**

BAPTISM: The Second Secret To A Happy, Prosperous Christian Life

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

(Second chapter in the book, *Seven Secrets of a Happy, Prosperous Christian Life*, 64 pages, now being given free to those who write and ask for it during letter month at Sword of the Lord Publishers.)

In the great revival at Pentecost the converts were baptized. "They that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." Those who want to be happy, successful and prosperous, like the converts were at Pentecost, should follow the same plan. Those who know they have trusted Christ for salvation should then be baptized to show their faith in Christ.

1. How Important Jesus Made Baptism

It is rather surprising how much importance is given to baptism in the New Testament. Jesus Himself was baptized in the River Jordan before the multitude, by John the Baptist (Luke 3:21, 22). There the Holy Spirit came visibly upon Him in form like a dove. John the Baptist had baptized multitudes of repentant, believing people. Now Jesus, through His disciples, baptized more than John (John 4:1, 2).

In the Great Commission Jesus gave strict orders about baptism. As it is given in Matthew 28:19, 20, Jesus said: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." All the new converts were to be baptized on profession of their faith in Christ.

In Mark 16:15, 16 the command is given again: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Note that baptism was such a natural and customary accompaniment to a profession of faith in Christ that "he that believeth and is baptized" is the form in which Jesus said it. And you will see that Jesus did not mean that baptism was essential to salvation, because the same verse plainly says, "But he that believeth not shall be damned." Not to personally trust Jesus Christ is the cause of damnation. But those who trust Christ and

are saved would naturally then follow His command to be baptized. In John 3:36 we are plainly told, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." This one who believed in Christ was saved before he was baptized, but was expected to be baptized, and of course when he was baptized he was still saved. But one who did not trust in Christ would be damned. Salvation was settled by personal faith in Christ, but it was naturally taken for granted that those who trusted Christ would be baptized.

And that is the way it happened in the New Testament, just as Jesus intimated that it should be. At Pentecost the believers were baptized at once. The Ethiopian eunuch, when Philip taught him the way of salvation, understood that after trusting Christ he should be baptized. And he was baptized there in a wayside stream or pond (Acts 8:38). Lydia and her household, when they trusted in Christ, were baptized (Acts 16:15). The jailer and his household were baptized the same hour of the night after they had heard the gospel and after they had obeyed the plain command and promise, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

In Acts 2:38, 39 we are taught that the attitude of mind that is properly exhibited in baptism is a condition to the fullness of the Holy Spirit. It is not that the outward rite of baptism will guarantee that one is filled with the Holy Spirit, but that one who honestly gives himself up to God in the meaning which baptism normally teaches is therefore prepared for the fullness of the Spirit for God's work.

Thus any Christian who cares about the words of Jesus and the practice of the New Testament Christians must seriously face the duty of being baptized. Baptism never saves a sinner. Salvation takes more than water, whether a spoonful or a tankful. Yet one who has been saved ought to be baptized because Jesus plainly commanded it, and because it is a public declaration of

his faith in Christ, a public confession. And the meaning of baptism is so rich that many a Christian misses the fullest blessing and fullest prosperity by disobeying Christ in this matter.

2. The Meaning of Baptism

I do not mean here to go into the form of baptism. I have done that elsewhere in my book, *Bible Baptism*. I should rather leave that aside for the moment. The meaning and spirit of baptism are far more important than the form. I do not want to bring in any unnecessary controversy. I want this message to be a help to every new convert who will read it, of every denomination. By the study of the Word of God and the counsel and help of Bible-believing pastors the reader will be enabled to study further the matter of the mode of baptism. So we will not discuss it here. We are concerned here about the spiritual meaning which God intended baptism to have and why baptism is a step in happiness and prosperity and spiritual success for every Christian.

That meaning of baptism is made clear, I think, in Romans 6:1-8, as follows:

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him."

Everyone who was baptized was baptized with reference to Christ and with reference to His death. Baptism pictured the burial and resurrection of Christ, so we are told that everyone who was baptized pointed to the death and burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ died for us; so the new convert is counted dead to sin, dead to the old life. And when the new convert is baptized and comes out of the water in the likeness of Christ's resurrection, he means that now he counts himself dead to the old life and not to be controlled by it any more. He is dead in Christ and risen with Christ. His sins have been paid for by the Saviour's death, and he is free. But now he is raised up to live a new life for God. He is not to count himself the same man at all. He is no longer supposed to be under the dominion of sin and death. Although he is yet in a natural body, subject to some of the weakness and the coming death that sin brings, yet the Christian is to reckon himself a new creature, and so to live out-and-out for God.

Every new convert, then, when he is baptized, says to himself, to the world and to God, "I'm not my own any more! The old sinner that I was is now dead. Now I am a new creature. I will live a new life. I am raised up to live for Jesus Christ alone."

I maintain that every person who was ever baptized and did not mean to count the old sinful self dead and to overrule it and

(Continued on page 7)

Your Letter-Month Letter

(Continued from page 1)

every issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, secure the help of the world's greatest soul winners for sermons and Bible teachings; if we gather reports of wonderful revivals from many evangelists and pastors; if we answer Bible questions of interest to all and show the Christian stand to take on great moral, spiritual and doctrinal issues—if we can do all this for you in THE SWORD OF THE LORD every week, you could write us one good personal letter! Dear friend, will you write that letter today? Do not make it too long. Please pay your own postage. Make any suggestions about ways we can improve THE SWORD OF THE LORD or get out the gospel further, but write your letter today!

Some surely should write and send an offering for the daily radio services on radio KENT and Sunday services on WCBF, Chicago. That is an unselfish, non-profit enterprise of getting out the gospel. Surely we are reaching hundreds of thousands with these gospel messages at an expense of close to \$1,500 a month. Perhaps you will want to help.

Some of you would like to help on our free literature fund. Hundreds are saved every year and write to tell us so, as a result of our literature. About 4 million copies of the twenty-four page booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" have been distributed. Missionary Timothy Pietsch of Japan has agreed to help circulate the booklet there. It is already translated, ready for printing, and a kindly brother has sent \$300 to help on the printing expense. It will cost hundreds of dollars more. A request from Greece urges us to print the booklet in that country. Hundreds of thousands of copies are being used in penitentiaries, jails, in the armed services, among school children, in rescue missions, etc. Would you like to help us get out the gospel in print? Shipments of books are made to native Christian workers in the Philippine Islands, in Africa, in India.

Perhaps you ought to send a subscription to someone. Delay no longer but send the subscription today! You have promised yourself some important Christian book we sell. Order that book today! Write us a letter!

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3. For every \$2 retail order we will give free, on request, the 118-page Vest Pocket Companion for Soul Winners by Dr. R. A. Torrey. Wonderful help in dealing with every kind of sinner.

4. The editor's large book, *THE HOME: Courtship, Marriage and Children*, 381 pages, 22 chapters, a Bible manual on the home, usually \$2.50, is sold at a special price of only \$2 during letter month. You see, for \$2 you get the book on THE HOME, usually selling for \$2.50, plus the free copy of Vest Pocket Companion, selling for 35c—a value of \$2.85 for only \$2 if you order the book on THE HOME during March and request the free Vest Pocket Companion for Soul Winners. Of course a \$2 purchase cannot apply toward free Vest Pocket Companion and the same \$2 be counted toward the free assorted box of greeting cards. A \$2 retail order gets the Vest Pocket Companion. A \$5 order gets the assorted box of cards. A \$7 retail order gets both.

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The World's Greatest Bargain

(Continued from page 1)

of them—winging their way through the air, speeding over mountain and plains by fast train, being carried by faithful postmen over muddy country roads and through crowded city streets!

But in all the thousands there is sometimes only one of importance to that person waiting...

To the aged, humble mother who stops her dishwashing and dries her hands to look anxiously into the mailbox and then up and down every street for the postman as if that were the first day instead of the long, dragging twenty-seventh since her son went away without a single word of good-by...

To the student who rushes between classes to the university post office, pushes his way through the crowd until he can see box No. 728, reaches and strains over the heads and shoulders of his crowding fellow-students to unlock the mailbox, take out the letters and tear open the one in a tan envelope addressed in brown ink...

To the young man, waiting in death row of Sing-Sing Prison, staring fixedly and with bated breath, waiting for the sound of footsteps—footsteps of the prison postman who will bring him word from his folks, and perhaps that coveted parole...

To the girl, with sweetheart far away, who hurries (though she is

an hour early) the half mile to the rural mailbox, unmindful of the beauty of the spring morning—her eyes full of love and expectancy...

To the workers in Sword of the Lord Publishers office (some thirty-five or forty of them) prayerfully, expectantly, eagerly waiting to hear from you—but working while they wait.

The very existence of this work depends on letters. And how they come!—between two hundred and three hundred a day, and more: fat letters, lean letters, typewritten letters, handwritten letters, white letters, pink letters, green letters; letters from country folk and city folk; letters from the north and from the south, and from over the seas. We rejoice over them, praise God for them, sometimes weep and pray over them!

But we want your letter! No other will take its place during March, letter month. How else can we know whether you have been helped this year? Whether some precious soul has been saved? Whether, through God-given counsel, some important problem in your life has been solved; whether your love for the Saviour has been increased; whether you have had His power to win souls?

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Food Parcels Conquer Hunger and Despair



The Rev. Jacob Feltz, Ph.D., B.D.

One Hebrew Christian mother from Germany writes: "How we prayed in our terrible hunger and then your large CARE food parcel arrived! You can imagine our joy! Our family consists of two children and six grandchildren who lost their parents. You cannot imagine how it feels to see the children go hungry and I stand by helpless to quiet their hunger."

Another Hebrew Christian writes: "You cannot imagine the misery we have had to endure and if we did not have faith in Jesus Christ it would not make sense to stay alive. Our Lord helped us during twelve years of unimaginable suffering and now you have come to our rescue with food and clothing. Please be assured of our everlasting gratitude."

From many areas in Europe we receive similar letters of unbounded gratitude for our food shipments and other forms of relief. This ministry helps to feed the undernourished Hebrew Christians, to sustain them in their faith and to encourage the spread of the Gospel.

The homelessness, hunger and suffering of Jews and Hebrew Christians in Europe is still very great. We earnestly plead for your prayers and gifts to support our Christlike ministry. Read Matt. 25:31-46.

\$ 5.00 will pay for a nutritious food parcel.

\$10.00 will pay for a big CARE food parcel.

\$10.00 will support an orphan child for a month.

A folder of "News Letters from Hebrew Christians in Europe" sent on request.

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EXTENSION STAFF REPORTS SEVENTY-TWO DECISIONS

By EVANGELIST BILL RICE

Associate Editor

Staff Evangelists Send in Reports of Thirty-Six Conversions and Thirty-Six Rededications

Reports by mail and long distance telephone tell of blessed services conducted by the film evangelists of our Extension Department. These men are busy showing our sound films, "The Dying Thief," a sermon to the unsaved by my brother, Dr. John R. Rice; "He That Winneth Souls Is Wise," a sermon for Christians on soul winning, also by my brother; and "I Am the Way," my own sermon to the unsaved.

Usually they are in a church for only one service in which they show two films, invite the lost to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ," encourage the lukewarm to rededicate their lives to the Saviour, and give everyone present a copy of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. (We also have men available for revival campaigns.)

Boice-Plew Win Twenty-Two! Pastor Praises God for Sword Team



BOICE-PLEW TEAM

The Boice-Plew team conducted four services over the last week end, with twenty-two professed conversions and sixteen rededications! These young men are both musical and often take a son and daughter along to help in the musical program. I was especially interested in the following letter from one of the New

York pastors in whose church they conducted one of the services.

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I want to thank you heartily for sending the Boice-Plew team to us. They gave us a very fine meeting. We were impressed with the spiritual tone of the program and the earnest effort on the part of Brother Boice for definite decisions for Christ.

"This team will be welcomed back to these parts again.

"God bless you,
"S. A. Graham."

There are other pastors in New York State who want these men right away and we are working out an itinerary for them now. We will welcome invitations from other pastors in that fine state.

Fred Bloomer Reports Fifteen Decisions

Evangelist Fred Bloomer conducted two services in which there were two professed conversions and thirteen rededications. Mr. Bloomer lives in Pennsylvania and is available for services throughout the Eastern states, to show these sermon films, representing THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

C. E. Christopherson Reports Nineteen Decisions

While I was writing this article a long distance 'phone call came for me from Indianapolis, Indiana. It was Mr. C. E. Christopherson of our Extension Staff calling to tell me that he has conducted two services over the week-end, showing these films with blessed results. Twelve people had publicly confessed Christ as Saviour and seven Christians had rededicated their lives to the Lord Jesus in these two services.

May We Help You?

We have a number of fine men on our Extension Staff who love the Lord and serve Him. These men will gladly make arrangements to be with the largest or smallest of churches, showing these sermon films, to help the pastor reach the lost for Christ. Write me today for definite dates or added information.

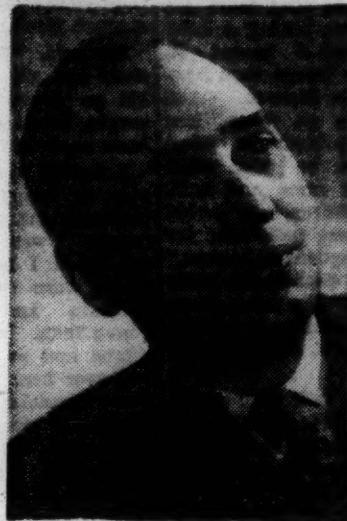
Evangelist Bill Rice
214 W. Wesley Street
Wheaton, Illinois

PRESIDENT BOB JONES, Jr.

Litt.D., L.H.D., LL.D.

Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina

Sixth commendation of famous Christian leader on the book, THE HOME: Courtship, Marriage and Children, by Evangelist John R. Rice, editor THE SWORD OF THE LORD.



Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., says:

"This book, excellently written, it seems to me should be read by every young married couple. Particularly impressive are the chapters on 'Correction and Discipline of Children,' 'Family Worship,' 'Character Building in the Home,' and 'Winning Children to Christ.' Clear-cut in its emphasis upon Christian restraint and in courtship and on Christian understanding in the home, it should save many from the dangers and pitfalls which young people so often encounter. I thoroughly recommend it."

Moody Monthly says:

"Dr. Rice's testimony is clear and wholesome. This book should be read by young people contemplating marriage, as well as by those who are married and face the responsibility which rests upon them."

EVERY HOME IN AMERICA IS ENDANGERED. With one-third as many divorces as marriages even now, and a rapidly-increasing divorce rate, it is probable that more than half of those now married will be separated before they die. Marriage and home are going on the rocks in America.

SAVE YOUR HOME!

decision and consecration that is properly involved in baptism and obey the Saviour in this blessed pictorial ceremony. Use for Christ this object lesson that pictures the death of Christ and His resurrection and our faith in this crucified, risen Saviour, and our surrender with all our souls to serve Him and live His life.

A great southern preacher, Dr. George W. Truett, has called our attention to the fact that Jesus left two object lessons, "the gospel for the eye," that ought to keep straight forever the great doctrine of salvation by the atoning blood of Christ. When one makes profession of his faith in Christ and is publicly baptized, it pictures that Jesus died and rose again, died for our sins and rose for our justification. And everytime one takes the Lord's Supper he reminds himself and others that only by the death of Christ, only by His body broken on the tree and His blood poured out on the cross are we saved and made fit for Heaven.

How important, then, that everybody should be reminded that we believe in the death of Christ, that we count ourselves crucified with Him and raised to live for Him. And this holy resolution of the heart is publicly announced in baptism. Every new convert, then, should follow the example of those at Pentecost. "They that gladly received his word were baptized" (Acts 2:41). Thus one will be obeying also the plain command of Jesus Christ in the Great Commission.

(The Seven Secrets of a Happy, Prosperous Christian Life are

Learn proper Christian standards for courtship and marriage, God's teaching about duties of husbands, duties of wives, God's plan for peace in the home. Learn what the Bible teaches about normal sex life in marriage, about birth control, about correction and discipline of children, about divorce, adultery, remarriage, family altar, winning children to Christ, etc. This remarkable book is actually saving homes from ruin.

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(Do not forget that with a \$2.00 order, you may have free Dr. R. A. Torrey's 118-page Vest Pocket Companion for Soul Winners.)

Send your order today to Sword of the Lord Publishers, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

THEY'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES!

By GRACE JEAN RICE

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BAPTISM: The Second Secret To A Happy, Prosperous Christian Life

(Continued from page 6)

override it and keep it down, and thus to live a life surrendered to God and pleasing to God in the power of the Holy Spirit, falsified his testimony when he was baptized. It was a lie, a wicked lie, a hypocritical profession, if one was baptized and did not mean to lay self on the altar, unreservedly, to live for Jesus Christ.

When Jesus was baptized He had in mind His own coming crucifixion, His burial and resurrection. He did not shrink from it but gave Himself openly to the plan of the Father for Himself. And Jesus said, "Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15). If it were suitable for Jesus to be baptized, picturing His own coming death, burial and resurrection, then it is suitable for a Christian to follow the example of His Saviour and to be baptized picturing the same thing—the Saviour's death for us, our death to sin in His death, and our glorious future resurrection pictured in His resurrection.

Can you see, then, how important it is for a Christian to be baptized? To be baptized means to put on the uniform of your king, to take the oath of allegiance, to publicly claim your Saviour. To be baptized means consciously giving up one's own way and a full surrender to the will of God. To be baptized

means giving self up to crucifixion, to live a resurrected life for God. Every Christian ought to have that time of surrender, that time of holy dedication, that time of reckoning himself dead. In fact, it ought to be the first great decision that every Christian makes after he has taken Christ as his Saviour. And that decision ought to be confirmed by the outward rite of baptism.

The world, it is true, often does not understand the meaning of baptism. And yet this much at least is true—everyone who sees a new convert baptized understands that the new convert means now to live for Christ.

I remember the joy that welled up in my heart on that cold November day, when, at a little artificial lake or "tank" in west Texas, I followed my Saviour in baptism. How my heart warmed! I did not know all the doctrine involved, and I was not even as thoroughly sure of my salvation as I afterward became. But, thank God, I felt in my heart the approval of the Saviour because I had publicly taken my stand for Him and had publicly announced my intention to serve Him at any cost the rest of my days. How many, many times I have seen joy unspeakable fill the faces of new converts as they followed the Saviour in baptism!

So, young Christian, if you would be happy, make that great

Clouds Big With Blessing

(Continued from Page 2)

wonderful thing it is to be a Christian!

As I grow older I marvel more and more at the blessings and benefits that belong to a person just because that person is believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. Wonderful!

Abraham Must Give Up His Father, Lot, Ishmael, and Isaac

Now I want to say something about Abraham's experience. Have you ever noticed in the study of his life that his spiritual experience is divided in four great crises? In each of these he was called on to give up something or somebody very precious to him.

For example, in the twelfth chapter of Genesis he is called upon to leave his kindred and his country and go out into a land that he knows nothing about. God said, "I will tell you all about it when you get out there."

In the thirteenth chapter he has with him his nephew. He has no children and so Lot is with him. He is sure that Lot is to be a successor and heir, but God lets some circumstances and conditions come into his life and calls on him to separate from Lot. And he does. Lot is the kind of believer that it is sometimes better to be separated from. I am an old man; you will hear with me for saying that. I believe it. God said, "Separate. Let there be no quarrel; just let there be separation." And they did separate.

Then in the seventeenth chapter of Genesis God calls on him to give up his plans concerning Ishmael, the son of the bond-woman who had been born in his own home.

In the twenty-second chapter, the chapter from whence we have taken our text, God calls on him to take the darling of his heart and lay him upon the altar.

The Scripture says that "he went out, not knowing whither he went" (Heb. 11:8). I think he took each one of these stands not knowing. He just could not understand how that covenant that God had made and repeated again and again could ever be fulfilled in a natural way. It looked impossible. He went out, not knowing. But as he went down the road and obeyed God the whole thing was interpreted to him.

God can interpret truths sometimes to your heart that you cannot get in your head. At times I have known a passage of Scripture; I could quote it correctly. But, oh, one day the whole thing was made clear to me. Maybe it came on the day a terrible disappointment came, or maybe the day a dear one went out of my life, or when something else along the line of testing or sorrow came.

You remember when Jesus stooped down to wash Peter's feet, Peter said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet." Jesus said, "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter" (John 13:7, 8). And when you read Peter's first epistle, written when he was an old man, you will come to the conclusion that somewhere down the road Peter found out all that meant. He interprets these things to our hearts in actual experience. He has that way of doing it.

I was standing with a woman at a grave not so long ago. She left her little six or seven year old girl, her only child, there. The father was almost convulsed with weeping. The mother did not shed a tear. When we were turning away from the graveside I said a word to the husband. When I turned to the wife, she held my hand in both of her hands—just held it there—and said, "You are a preacher. You say you believe the Bible. Now interpret this to me."

I said, "What do you mean by 'interpret this to me'?"

"Tell me," she said, "why God took this little girl. We prayed for years for a baby and then this child came. Now when she was hugging us closer and closer together, our little child is taken

out of our lives. Explain it."

Well, I could not explain it. I did what most ministers do at a time like that. I said, "God is too good to be unkind. God is too wise to err." Then I added, "I have found out that there are worse things than having a baby in Heaven." And I meant it. There are worse things than having a baby up in Heaven. (And I believe babies go there, you know. I believe that is what Jesus wanted us to know when He put out His arms and said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." There is a great deal in the Bible to warrant that. He takes them to be with Himself. I believe that as much as I believe I am standing here.)

Now, let me tell you about another mother. Mr. McKee and I had a union meeting in Buffalo. One Sunday morning we with some members of the choir, went down state forty or fifty miles to the state penitentiary to have a service with the prisoners.

When the service was over I stood beside the chaplain on the platform. I said, "Chaplain, I met Mrs. _____ Friday night

at the close of the meeting and she told me that her son is here for life."

He said, "Yes, he is here."

I said, "Is he in this audience?" "No," he said, "he would not be here." I did not like that. That sounded sensitive.

"Do you think I could see him?" I promised her I would try to contact him."

He said, "Well, let them go—chose and all—and you stay here. I'll go down to the office and maybe I can arrange for you to have an interview with him."

I waited twelve or fifteen minutes, or longer. I moved off the platform and walked down to the front. I was getting ready to go out when I heard them coming. There were two guards and the chaplain and that handsome young man. He had irons on his thighs and on his feet. Oh, did you ever hear anybody walk with those manacles on! It makes you think you are in Hell!

The chaplain and prisoner got about half way down the aisle and the officers stayed at the back. The poor fellow was bewildered; he did not know what all of it was about. I motioned for him to come up to me. He came. I could hardly speak, but I put out my hand and said, "I met your mother Friday night."

He broke right down and went to crying. (He would not have done that had the place not been empty, you know.) He spoke right out loud and said, "Good God, my mother! My mother! Oh, it would have been better for my mother had I never been born!" Sure; there are worse things than having a baby in Heaven.

We cannot always understand things in this life, but one day we will understand them. One of the glorious things that I anticipate is the fact that one day a lot of things I cannot understand now will be made perfectly plain. Now we see through a glass darkly but then it is going to be face to face. Now we know only in part, but then we shall know even as we are known. Oh, bless God, the best is yet to come for the Christian!

Not now, but in the coming years,

It may be in the better land

We'll read the meaning of our tears,

And there, some time, we'll understand.

We'll know why clouds instead of sun

Were over many a cherished plan;

Why song has ceased when

scarcely begun:
"Is there, some time, we'll understand.
Blessed be God forever!

Go Where God Says, and He Will Explain

I will not take time to dwell on the next part of my message, but Abraham found out the meaning of this when he came to the place that God had told him of. He would never in the world have found out if he had gone to any other mountain or any other place. God told him where to go. And when he got there he found that God was there before he got there and had made preparation, had made provision for him. A ram was tied in a thicket. He took the ram, placed it on the altar instead of his son.

And I think Jesus was referring to that moment in Abraham's life when he said, "Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad" (John 8:56). Abraham saw Calvary there at Mt. Moriah that morning. And, bless God, you are always glad when you see Calvary. It takes the burden away, the sighs away, the sorrows away when we see Calvary. Abraham went to the place that God had told him of and there he found Him.



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